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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Albania

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1. The fixed artillery on Karaburun peninsula and on Saseno Island is controlled by Artillery Headquarters at Tirana. Fixed artillery positions on Karaburun are at L.790465 and L.840450. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
2. The headquarters of an Army regiment is located at Vlone. 50X1-HUM
3. At the north end of the old airfield at Vlone, now ploughed up, there is an anti-aircraft battery at L.9747. A field artillery group, situated in barracks, is also stationed at this place. These units form part of the Army regiment at Vlone. The artillery ammunition dump is located at L.975460 in the olive groves beside the road to Kanine and at the foot of the hill. This site has been used for an ammunition dump since the [redacted] occupation. 50X1-HUM
4. Twelve tanks are located at Vlone, which are at the disposal of the regiment. They are the same medium-sized [redacted] tanks which have been there since 1949, and are parked beside the road leading from the port to the town. 50X1-HUM
5. Although the headquarters of the Tank Regiment is at Tirana, the main concentration of tanks is at Kavaje.
6. In early October 1951, the infantry of the Vlone Army regiment was still concentrated at Drashovice, where they remained for a rest after maneuvers. They are expected to move shortly to their barracks at Vlone for the winter. On 15 September at Drashovice, they celebrated the wartime activities of the Partisan brigades of that district.
7. The regular Army is not used for any security operations and is kept isolated from the public. Local opinion is that the Army is distrusted by the Government, and that it is maintained purely as a formality, and to keep a large number of young men out of mischief. To substantiate this view, [redacted] the instance of a certain soldier who in May 1951 was serving in the Army Division at Gjinokaster. He was friendly with the junior officers, who used to speak openly among themselves of their dissatisfaction with the Government, complaining that although the Army fed them, their families were in a miserable condition. These officers stated that they were all ready to fight the Government as soon as they knew definitely that material aid for the Albanian people was forthcoming. 50X1-HUM

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